

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-10 and 19-24 are in the present application, claims 1, 5 and 11-18 having been canceled by this Amendment, new claims 19-24 having been added by this Amendment. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is kindly requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-10. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 5, canceled non-elected claims 11-18, and added a new independent claim 19 that includes the subject matter of claim 5. Applicants submit that claim 19 is in allowable form and request such an indication from the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled to overcome any alleged indefiniteness, and new claim 19 added in an effort to comport with the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Withdrawal of the rejection is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Doron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,486,588). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and is further inapplicable to new claims 19-24 as set forth below.

Claim 1 has been canceled and new claim 19 added to include the subject matter considered allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doron et al. in view of Stokes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,655). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and is further inapplicable to new claims 19-24 as set forth below.

Claim 1 has been canceled and new claim 19 added to include the subject matter considered allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

New Claims

New claims 20-24 have been added in an effort to provide further protection for Applicants' invention. Claims 20-24 are submitted to be allowable at least for the reasons set forth above regarding claim 19, and as indicated by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In light of the above, and as Applicants have attempted to remedy all outstanding issues in the present application, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 2-4, 6-10 and 19-24 is kindly requested.

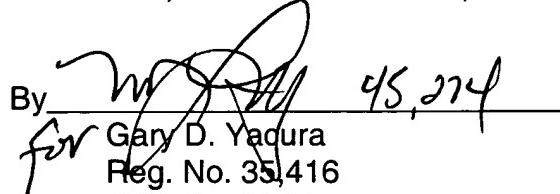
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Matthew J. Lattig at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

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